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35.	GoI in DoAC- Tunisia
36.	GoI in the DoAC- USDA, USA
37.	GoI in the DoAC- USDA, USA
38.	GoI, M/o Agriculture (in DoAC)- M/o Agriculture, Mozambique

Price rise of egg and chicken

1518. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of poultry feed have increased from the last year;

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in sharp increase in the price of egg and chicken;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to bring down the prices of poultry feed; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The cost of poultry feed, has increased from last year during this period (June-July) as per available information.

(b) No such studies have been done attributing increase in poultry feed price to increase in price of egg and chicken. As per industry data of various centers, the prices of chicken and eggs have increased during the period.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the availability of major poultry feed ingredient maize and containing its prices in the domestic market, Government banned its export in 2008 from early July till mid-October, which discouraged hoarding by traders. The Government also facilitates information dissemination regarding availability of damaged grains from Food Corporation of India (FCI) for uptake, often at subsidized prices, to poultry industry. As a long-term measure, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is focusing towards increasing yield and quality of maize and oilseeds.

Decline in the production of rice

1519. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of rice in the country has fallen below the target in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has taken measures to boost production of rice to meet the growing demand?